THE MARYLAND YELLOWTHROAT

A Publication of the Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc.

Vol. 12, No. 5 **NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1992**

Maryland Christmas Counts and Compilers 1992-93

December 19

Allegany County: John Willetts, Rt. 2, Box 640, Frostburg, MD 21532. 301-689-3202.

Denton: Steve Westre, RR1, Box 212G, Denton, MD 21629. 410-479-0338.

Jug Bay: Bob and Pat Melville, 6401 Mallard Ln., Lothian, MD 20711. 301-627-8376.

Washington, DC: Audubon Naturalists Society, 301-652-9188.

December 20

Catoctin Mountain (Frederick County): Mike Welch, 1832 Millstream Dr., Frederick, MD 21701. 301-663-3037

Lower Kent: Paul Toulson, Rt. 2, Box 138A, Chestertown, MD 21620. 410-778-4123.

Pt. Tabacco: George Wilmot, 401 Amherst Rd., Bryans Rd., MD 20616. 301-375-8552.

Seneca: Craig Tufts, 115 Tamarack Ct., Sterling, VA 22170. (w) 703-790-4438, (h) 703-689-2590.

St. Michaels: Carolyn Mills, Box 93, St. Michaels, MD 21663. 410-745-5209.

December 26

Elkton: Joel Citron, 2003 Ferndale Dr., Wilmington, DE 19810. 303-475-8773.

Washington County: Cam Lewis, 1908 Applewood Dr., Hagerstown, MD 21740. 301-791-2516.

Tridelphia Reservoir: Norm Saunders, 1261 Cavendish Dr., Colesville, MD 20905. (h) 301-989-9035, (w) 202-606-5723

December 27

Bowie: Fred Fallon, 301-249-1518 and Woody Martin, (o) 301-498-0401.

Pt. Lookout: Patty Craig, 301-872-5670.

Rock Run: Dennis Kirkwood, 265 Brandenbaugh Rd., Newark Farms, White Hall, MD 21161. 410-692-5905.

December 28

Chincoteague, VA: Teta Kain, Rt. 5, Box 950, Gloucester, VA 23061. 804-693-7699.

December 29

Ocean City: Chan Robbins, 7902 Brooklyn Bridge Rd., Laurel, MD 20707. 301-725-1176.

December 30

Crisfield: Charles Vaughn, 1306 Frederick Ave., Salisburg, MD 21801. 410-742-7221.

December 31

S. Dorchester County (Blackwater NWR): Chan Robbins (see Ocean City).

January 2

Salisbury: Charles Vaughn (see Crisfield).

Baltimore Harbor: Peter Webb, 7014 Lancaster Rd., Baltimore, MD 21207. 410-486-1217.

Sugarloaf Mt.: Gary Nelson, 5514 Spruce Tree Ave., Bethesda, MD 21814. 301-897-8916, Keith Van Ness, 301-845-4450.

January 3

Annapolis: Hal Wierenga, 410-647-7439, Sue Ricciardi, 410-647-9513.

Maryland Mid-winter Count

Back in 1986, the Howard County Bird Club, one of the more active chapters of the M.O.S., decided to try to census the county birds at the middle of winter. Their reasoning was that the Christmas counts were picking up late migrants an that another count was needed to get a handle on the makeup of true winder bird populations. This year, in early February of 1992, the Howard County Chapter carried out their seventh consecutive mid-winter county. They have been joined over the years by ten other Maryland counties.

While similar in execution to the May Count, the Mid-winter Counts are fundamentally different in nature. The May Count is an effort to census the number of migrating birds at the peak of their northward movement. As such, the count is carried out on the same day in all counties of the state. The Mid-winter County, on the other hand, is an attempt to measure the number of diversity of those birds that have settled in for the winter. For this reason the county are carried out on a single day selected from within the period January 10 to February 10. Counties closest to the ocean would generally select a date near the beginning of the period, while the colder western counties could wait until later in the month. This allows participants to assist in more than one county, something not possible with the May Count.

Although the Mid-winter Counts have been going on for seven years now, they haven't received much, if any, exposure beyond reports in local chapter newsletters. Hopefully, this is about to change. I plan to pull together all of the count information from the winters of 1986 through 1992 and summarize it in an article for Maryland Birdlife. Beginning with the 1993 winter season, I plan to prepare an annual article summarizing the results and listing all participants by county, again for publication in Maryland Birdlife. Following is the schedule to date for 1993 Mid-winter Bird Counts. If you want to participate in any of the scheduled counts, contact the compiler as soon as possible. If your county doesn't currently

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DNR Reports

Last issue I introduced the topic of Neotropical migratory birds and reported preliminary findings of our fall 1991 coastal migrant study. Over the past few years there has been a growing concern throughout the country for Neotropical migrants. Most of these species are songbirds, including warblers, vireos, flycatchers, orioles, and tanagers. Hummingbirds, swifts, cuckcoos, and some raptors are also considered Neotropical migrants. Populations of this group as a whole are declining due to a variety of factors. Loss of wintering habitat in Mexico, the West Indies, and South and Central America is part of the reason, as is loss or fragmentation of breeding habitat in North America.

Some of the first work at documenting problems with these birds was done right here in Maryland by Chan Robbins and his colleagues at Patuxent Wildlife Research Center. Chan has shown that habitat fragmentation (i.e. the cutting up of large blocks of contiguous habitat into small patches interspersed with other habitat types) is a major problem here and elsewhere in eastern North America. The loss of riparian forests in the west and degradation of grasslands in the midwest are regional problems facing these migrants on their breeding grounds elsewhere. These problems combined with the loss and degradation of forests on the birds wintering grounds are now of international proportions.

To address this complex issue, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation launched the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Program in May 1990. The objective of this program was to create an integrated federal, state, international, and private program for research, monitoring, and habitat management for these species. This effort is called "Partners in Flight". All the major federal agencies including the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, EPA, BLM, and the armed services are formally involved, as are the state wildlife agencies, including Maryland, and many private organizations such as National Audubon Society, Defenders of Wildlife, Hawk Mountain, The Nature Conservancy, and many of the bird observatories.

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Mid-winter

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have a Mid-winter Count and you think you might like to try organizing one, get in touch with me for further information.

Norm Saunders
Maryland Mid-winter County Coordinator
301-989-9035 (evenings, before 9 p.m.)
202-606-5723 (days, Monday through Friday)

1993 Maryland Mid-winter Counts

GARRETT–Saturday, February 6. Compiler: Fran Pope, 503 F Street, Mountain Lake Park, MD 21550. 301-334-4908.

ALLEGANY–Saturday, January 30. Compiler: Teresa Simons, 141 N. Bel Air Drive, Cumberland, MD 21502. 301-729-4161 (H) 301-777-5646(O).

CARROLL–Saturday, January 23. Compiler: Bob Ringler, 6272 Pinyon Pine Court, Eldersburg, MD 21784. 410-549-6031(H) 410-225-6180(O).

BALTIMORE–Saturday, January 16. Compiler: Bob Ringler, 6272 Pinyon Pine Court, Eldersburg, MD 21784. 410-549-6031(H) 410-225-6180(O).

HARFORD–Saturday, January 30. Compiler: Bill Pfingsten, 706 Broadway, Bel Air, MD 21014. 410-838-5732.

CECIL–Saturday, January 30. Coordinator: Parke H. John, Jr., 57 Virginia Avenue, North East, MD 21901. 410-287-6037 (between 6:00 & 9:00 p.m.)

HOWARD–Saturday, February 6. Compiler: Joanne Solem, 10617 Graeloch Road, Laurel, MD 20707. 301-725-5037.

MONTGOMERY–Saturday, January 30. Compiler: Norm Saunders, 1261 Cavendish Drive, Colesville, MD 20905. 301-989-9035(H) 202-606-5723(O).

PRINCE GEORGES–Saturday, January 23. Compiler: Paul Jung, 12606 Memory Lane, Bowie, MD 20715. 301-262-7531.

KENT–Saturday, February 6. Compilers: Jim & Trish Gruber, 201 Maple Avenue, Chestertown, MD 21620. 410-778-6851.

CALVERT–Saturday, January 10. Compiler: Jim Stasz, P. O. Box 71, North Beach, MD 20714. 410-257-9540(H) 301-952-3653(O).

DNR

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To accomplish the numerous tasks that need to be done, various working groups have been formed at both a national level and at a regional level. The four major working groups are (1) research, (2) monitoring, (3) information and education, and (4) international. These working groups are made up of experts from a variety of the participating organizations. They are charged with developing, evaluating, refining programs in the four respective fields. They are also laying the foundation for the regional working groups to build from. The regional working groups (Northeast, Southeast, Midwest, and West) are made up of local experts developing programs to address the monitoring, research, management, and information issues at the regional and local levels. Maryland is involved in both the Northeast and Southeast working groups.

Much of the efforts we have undertaken in Maryland over the last five years are in line with the objectives of "Partners in Flight". Our work with forest interior breeding birds, grassland birds, habitat protection through the Critical Area law, and the breeding bird atlas are examples of the kind of projects promoted by this international effort. More projects like these will result from this program.

"Partners in Flight" is in its infancy but is growing quickly. This past September a national workshop was held in Colorado and attracted over 600 participants. The momentum is building and hopefully out of this partnership the Neotropical migrants we all love and admire will benefit for a long time to come.

Glenn Therres

MOS Annual Membership Meeting August 15, 1992

The meeting was called to order by John Malcolm, President.

The winner of the pin design, a delightful Brown-Headed Nuthatch, was Pat Moore, former Montgomery Chapter member now residing in North Carolina.

John Malcolm thanked the Wicomico Chapter for the great work they did on this conference.

John Taylor's original painting for the cover of the Atlas was on display. John Malcolm thanked John Taylor again for this lovely work. MOS really appreciates it.

There are two different award pins, the red one is given out by the State MOS to people who have done outstanding work. This year John Malcolm awarded Valued Service Certificates and pins to:

Leland DeVore - Harford Chapter
Joy Aso - Montgomery Chapter
Rich Dolesh - Jug Bay Chapter

Emily Joyce will Chair the Budget Committee. Bob Rineer will chair the Conference Committee. A Chair is stilled need for the Education Committee.

Ellen Lawler was thanked for her work on the conference and given a tote bag. Pat Moore was also thanked for her art work and also given a tote bag.

The raffle, which had a number of very nice prizes, took in $1011.

The minutes of the last membership meeting held on May 25, 1991 were accepted as amended.

Treasurers Report - MOS is solvent. When Emily Joyce, the out-going Treasurer took over the investments totaled about $150,000, they are now at $400,000, mostly from bequests. Copies of the annual financial report were distributed.

Past Presidents Report - The Executive Board has done a great job.

Audit Committee Report - The books are in order. Emily Joyce has done excellent work.

Budget Committee Report - The budget was passed in April for the next fiscal year.

By-Laws Committee Report - The change in the wording of the By-Laws was proposed and voted on by the board at the May 25th, 1991 meeting. However one change was not in the printed copies send out. This change is as follows:

> Article VII, Board of Directors, Section 3.
> Remove the clause, "adopt a budget for the next fiscal year;" from the second sentence which begins "At its initial meeting..."

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Membership

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Since this did not get into the printed copy, it must again be voted on. It was moved that this change be made in the By-Laws and that motion passed.

Conference Committee Report - The 1993 Conference will be at Frostburg on June 4, 5 and 6.

The 1994 Conference will be held at the Bible Conference Center which is right on the Chesapeake Bay.

The 1995 Conference will be held at Mount St. Mary's College in Catoctin. The first MOS Conference 1945 was held at Camp Greentop in the Catoctin Mountains.

Ellen Lawler reported that for the current Conference there were 220 attendees and 31 field trips. The pelagic trip had to be canceled due to weather. The silent auction made about $762.

Education Committee Report - There is still no Chair for this committee. Phil Davis is doing the Speakers List.

Conservation Committee Report - MOS is respected state and nationwide. It is important that MOS continue to speak out and use this influence.

Locally Black Marsh is going to have limited development, so that our efforts were not completely successful.

Belt Woods, is a unique ancient forest in Prince Georges County. Development is planned in the surrounding area. A compromise plan is being worked on.

The town of Ocean City opposed the closing of the Fourth St. Flats island to picnickers, boaters etc. This closing should be supported as this is a nesting and resting area for various birds. A petition was circulated regarding this issue. It is important that our voice be heard about this as there is not much open land left in Ocean City.

At the State level there is no money so what money there is went to other programs. However Program Open Space was funded by a bond measure.

Recent administrations have not been supportive of the environment. There has been an erosion of commitment, although the wetlands regulations were not changed as drastically as the Presidents Council desired. This was due to the letters MOS and other organizations sent. But the Wetlands Policy Delineation Manual is being rewritten and we all need to write giving our full support for preservation of wetlands. The ZIP code for the Congress is: 20510 for the Senate and 20515 for the House.

A bill, HR5013, has passed the House and gone to the Senate. This is an important bill which would protect exotic birds. There is a lucrative black market in these birds. They need protection. Write to your Senator asking him to sign on as a co-sponsor for this bill in the Senate.

The Re-authorization of the Endangered Species Act pits business and pro-development people against environmentalist. It is very important that this act be re-authorized in order to protect wildlife. The Clean Water Act is also coming up soon. Both of these are vital to keep our environment livable and to keep the species diversity that is needed.

Each Chapter should have a Conservation Committee. Rich was continue to keep these Committees informed.

Gifts Committee Report - The function of this committee is to obtain gifts and then to propose ideas on what to do with the gift. A strawman proposal was presented at the last Board meeting. Parts of this proposal were passed, ie: $3,500 for MOS brochures, $20,000 put aside for the next Atlas. It was agreed that the Gifts Committee would put together a proposal to be presented at the next Board meeting, which will take place later tonight.

Investments Committee Report - The investments have been making an annual increase of about 6.83%. The Committee is looking into ways to raise the income and value of the portfolio, since at this time interest rates are falling.

Long Range Planning Committee Report - A questionnaire will go out soon to each Chapter to be filled out and returned. The results will then be published.

Research Committee Report - Karen Skuldt has a new job in Pennsylvania and therefore is resigning her position on this committee.

We need to attract more research grants.

John Malcolm thanked the authors of the four papers presented at the conference and the 40 people who attended the presentation.

Sanctuary Committee Report - About 140 acres have been donated and added to Irish Grove. The Boy Scout Troop 802 from Aberdeen did a lot of work on the barn, roof, etc.

Carey Run has all new windows.

On October 17th, Jan Reese will be at Mill Run.

Scholarships Committee Report - Eight people applied and there were seven winners. The list of winners is attached. The first group went to the Audubon Camp in Connecticut and the second group went to Maine. Dr. Gebhart asks that each Chapter publicize the scholarships so that more applications are received.

Atlas Committee Report - The Atlas was begun with planning in 1982, field work in 1983 and the book itself should be out and available next year, 1993. Ten members met and proofed the double-spaced drafts of the written accounts which came to about 1000 pages. All these are done. Maps are being computer generated and as soon as they are done, the final draft will go the printer.

County Lists - There was an error in the Maryland Life Lists. It should read:

Hal Wierenga 354
Paul O'Brien 353

Publication Committee Report - *Maryland Birdlife* was shelved while the Atlas was being done, but now they are catching up. They need more research papers which will be sent for peer review before printing. Both *MB* and *The Yellowthroat* are being printed on re-cycled paper.

The next deadline for *The Yellowthroat* is October 1, 1992. Before that date, all Chapters should have their activities list for December and January in so that it can be printed.

Nominating Committee Report - The term of office for MOS officers runs from September 1 to August 31. The slate was again introduced:

Bill Newman - President
Al Haury - Vice President
Larry Fry - Treasurer
Joan Stephens - Secretary

There was no nominations from the floor and the slate was voted in by acclaim.

Presidents Report - The out-going President, John Malcolm, mentioned the items that have been accomplished while he has served:

Completed the Atlas
Up-dated the By-Laws to make MOS run more smoothly
Increased dues to keep MOS in the black
Two Rain Forest challenges were met
Sixty-four acres were protected with more to come
Many bequests have been received
The Yellowbook was reprinted
All publications are on Re-cycled paper
Added non-birding trips to conference events
Research papers are being presented at the conferences
Work has started on a BIG 50th anniversary Conference

MOS has pulled off many good things that we can all be proud of.

Bill Newman, the in-coming President, presented John Malcolm, the out-going President with a Valued Service Award to a standing ovation.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:02 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted
Joan Stephens, Secretary

MOS Board of Directors Meeting August 15, 1992

The meeting was called to order by John Malcolm, President, at 10:15 p.m.

The minutes to the April 17, 1992 Meeting were accepted as amended.

Treasurer's Report - Emily Joyce, the outgoing Treasurer, distributed copies of the year end financial report.

Executive Secretary's Report - All Chapter President's annual reports need to be submitted as soon as possible. Also any changes in the officers so that a new and updated list may be send to all Chapters.

The Maryland DNR calendars are available again this year. Each Chapter will deal directly with DNR by ordering the number they need and then returning unused copies and the payment. The price will be $5.00, of which $3.25 goes to DNR and $1.75 stays in the Chapter. However sales tax must be charged and a tax ID number is necessary. For information regarding the calendars, beyond that included in the letter that Joy supplied along with the sample calendar, can be obtained by calling Josephine Thom at 410-974-3610 after September 1, or Debbie Brooks at 410-974-2870 before that date.

There is no minimum order but the complete deal will be handled individually by each Chapter.

Budget Committee - Emily Joyce will be the new Budget Committee chair. One item was left out of the budget when it was passed earlier. The Gifts Committee needs a small amount for postage etc. It was moved that $100 be added to the budget for this committee. The motion passed.

Conference Committee Report - Although the committee has arranged next years conference at Frostburg on June 4, 5 and 6, somehow no one discussed this with the Chapter that would be the host. The Western Chapters could do this conference jointly if a single Chapter did not want to take on this responsibility.

Harford Chapter will be the host for the 1994 conference.

It was suggested that the 1996 conference be held in Southern Maryland.

Long Range Planning Committee Report - A questionnaire will be sent out to each Chapter for suggestions. Each Chapter should fill this out as soon as possible and return so that the results can be printed in *The Yellowthroat.*

Sanctuary Committee Report - On October 17th there will be a work day at Mill Creek. The Chapter will provide food. They will start at 9 a.m. The work days at Irish Grove are November 7th & 8th.

Scholarship Committee - The information regarding scholarships does not change from year to year, therefore each Chapter can start immediately looking for candidates. Each Chapter should try to submit at least one application.

Speakers Bureau - There are copies of the official speakers list plus another list of possible speakers.

Investment Committee Report - They are looking into investments that will diversify the portfolio and bring a higher yield.

Mailing List - Bill Guion can provide mailing labels. If a Chapter needs these for a mail-out, the Chapter is responsible for the cost.

Vice Presidents Report - The license plates are available as we all know and can be ordered at the time one renews their tags.

A brochure to use as a handout at various functions and locations with an insert which can be changed annually was passed out in order that any changes needed can be made by September 1, 1992. Then the brochure will be run by Bill Newman and printed.

Presentation folders can be done on Desk Top Publishing with paper that can be ordered as needed.

Publications Committee Report - All Chapter and Committee Annual reports are done.

Gifts Committee Report - A motion to accept the committees recommendations, in the report which was mailed out was made, seconded and passed.

Conservation Committee Report - The Chair of this committee. Rich Dolesh, would like an up-dated list of Chapter Conservation Chairs.

Ocean City is promoting ECO Tourism. A positive message regarding this can be sent to the mayor of Ocean City, Roland Fish Powell.

A good organization for both Chapters and individuals to join is The Committee to Preserve Assateague. They are doing a coastal bay survey, beach clean-up and they put out a very good newsletter.

Preserving wetlands in Prince Georges County has been set back by a developer who has ditched and drained a wetland near Hampton Mall. Letters should be sent to the County Commissioners and the Corp of Engineers at the following address:

> Corp of Engineers, USA, c/o Sam Collinson, CECW-OR, Washington, DC 20304-1000. A general letter in support of maintaining wetlands would be helpful.

There are two bills on ancient forest designations coming up soon. They would restore the hearing process and reduce the amount of timber sold below cost. A number one can call to find out about bills pending in the Congress is 202-797-6655.

There are about 108 acres along Deep Creek near Swallow Falls that was purchased by the Nature Conservancy. This acreage will be donated to the state by The Nature Conservancy. A letter from Wayne Klockner asks MOS approval for this since donations from MOS helped purchase the property. The Board approved, with two conditions already agreed upon, which are that the property will stay a State Park and remain a Natural area.

Old Business - At the last Board meeting a lawyer for MOS was discussed. John Malcolm spoke to a lawyer in Montgomery County who suggest that a lawyer should be found who is willing to work for the organization, not on a retained but on a cost by case basis. Bryan Frosh of Bethesda, the lawyer John spoke with, said that he would bill MOS at $125 per hour (The regular rate is $175). The sense of the Board was that this should be pursued. The Board also agreed that it is acceptable for the President and Executive Council to seek legal advice if necessary.

New Business - Harford Chapter had asked the board to bring forth tum Suden Sanctuary. Harford Chapter would prefer donating the property to Harford Glen Park to keep in a natural state and to be used for nature education. The three options for disposing of the property are:

> 1-Continue as MOS sanctuary. The house would be vacant, insurance would be expensive and vandalism may occur.
>
> 2-Sell this property and use the money to buy other property. This seems to go against the bequest of the property originally.
>
> 3-Turn it over to the country as part of the park system.

Harford Chapter has polled their members and the third option is the one they favor.

It was moved that in accordance with the will and the membership of Harford Chapter the property be donated to the Harford County Public Schools after Rich Blom moves out with the provision that it stays a natural area and is used for education. This motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:28 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joan Stephens, Secretary

1992 MARYLAND/DC LOCALITY LIST COMPILATION

Each year, the MOS compiles and publishes totals from member's state and local bird lists. Forms for submitting 1992 locality lists are provided in this issue of THE MARYLAND YELLOWTHROAT. You are invited to submit your totals for any of the following list categories:

STATE/COUNTY CUMULATIVE LISTS: This category is for "lifetime" species totals identified anywhere in the state of Maryland, DC, or within any of the 23 Maryland counties. You may submit totals for any of these localities. Due to space limitations, please only submit totals which exceed 50% of the "maximum" number for each locality. The form contains the latest maximums and the 50% threshold for each locality.

STATE/COUNTY 1992 ANNUAL LISTS: This category is for total species identified only in 1992 for the same localities as above. These totals may be reported at any threshold.

"YARD" LIST: This category is for cumulative yard list totals, and new this year, 1992 totals. You may count any species you have identified while in your "yard" (that is, the property contiguous to the site of your home). "Flyovers" and other birds identified from your yard (even if they were not in your yard) also count. Additional information is requested on your "yard".

"ALL-COUNTY" LIST: This category is for counting the number of species you have identified in each of the 23 Maryland counties. For example, if you have identified a Northern Mockingbird, an American Crow, a Downy Woodpecker and a Red-tailed Hawk in each of the 23 Maryland counties, your list total would be "4".

"ALL-TIME HIGH" ANNUAL LISTS: This category is used to track all-time high annual lists from the current and previous years. Annual prior year totals for the reporting localities may be submitted. For Maryland, submitted totals should equal or exceed 271 (70% of the maximum "possible" number). For individual counties, totals submitted from previous years should exceed either 50% of the "possible" or exceed one of the top totals previously published for that county. See the March/April 1992 issue of THE MARYLAND YELLOWTHROAT for previous published totals.

We remind those who submitted prior year list totals that it is important to update their totals. Space may not permit publication of lists that are not reasonably current.

Questions ??? Call: Phil Davis (301) 261-0184.

Please return the form BEFORE January 20, 1993 to:

Phil Davis
Wild Bird Center
6955-F Oakland Mills Road
Columbia, MD 21045

We hope that all who have participated will do so again, and that others will join in, especially those from localities which are currently less than well represented. If you have any comments, thoughts or anecdotes, please include them. Specifics on your yard habitat and size will also be of interest if your yard list total is especially high. If you have any other categories of Maryland bird lists that are appropriate (for example, all-time or 1992 state/county "Big Day" totals), send them in. We'd like to hear from you.

MOS 1992 MARYLAND/DC LOCALITY LIST REPORTING FORM

I. PERSONAL INFORMATION	
Name:	
Address:	
City:	County:
State:	Zip:
Phones: (day): ( )	(evening): ( )

II. STATE/COUNTY LIFE AND 1992 LISTS:							
Locality List	Max/50%	Life	1992	Locality List	Max/50%	Life	1992
Maryland State	390/195			District of Columbia	308/154		
MD Yard List*	–			DC Yard List*	–		
Allegany County	274/137			Howard County	283/141		
Anne Arundel County	329/164			Kent County	292/146		
Baltimore City/County	330/165			Montgomery County	308/154		
Calvert County	291/145			Prince George's County	303/151		
Caroline County	267/133			Queen Anne's County	281/140		
Carroll County	272/136			Saint Mary's County	281/140		
Cecil County	267/133			Somerset County	287/143		
Charles County	263/131			Talbot County	295/147		
Dorchester County	301/150			Washington County	262/131		
Frederick County	279/139			Wicomico County	265/132		
Garrett County	270/135			Worcester County	359/179		
Harford County	286/143			All–County List	–		

* **Yard List Information:**
County: _____
Location: Home: _____ Work: _____ Other? (specify): _____
Brief Description (size, habitat, etc):

III. ANNUAL ALL–TIME HIGH LISTS (for previous years):					
Locality List	Year	#	Locality List	Year	#

(Attach Additional Sheet If Needed)

Five Year Summary of Winter Bird Survey Data

Five of the planned six years of the Winter Bird Survey have now been completed, with a total of 421 blocks having been surveyed to date. Since 1988, volunteer observers have been walking Atlas blocks from 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. between January 10 and February 10 on routes which cover proportionally the available habitat. The resulting date will be used to prepare maps showing the winter ranges and relative abundances of diurnal bird species in Maryland. Over the long term, it will be possible to monitor trends, fluctuations, cycles and irruptions in winter bird populations. A computer-generated sample map appears below.

The Atlas blocks are subunits of USGS quadrangles that overlay the state. Each quadrangle consists of 6 blocks arranged in three tiers of 2 blocks each. Selected blocks form a checkerboard pattern across the state, with a different tier targeted each year. This past winter central tier blocks were visited and this coming winter northern blocks will be up for coverage. Over the six years, each tier will have been targeted twice in an effort to maximize the total number of surveyed blocks.

This winter will also mark the second and final year of an associated study whose purpose is to estimate the variability in the Winter Bird Survey. Principal investigator Jeff Hatfield and coinvestigators Danny Bystrak and Sam Droege, from Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, are conducting the study. Another group of ten or more different WBS blocks will be surveyed ten different times.

A good crew of volunteers will be needed this winter, especially for blocks in Garrett, Allegany, Washington, and upper and lower Eastern Shore counties. If you are an experienced birder, able to identify winter birds by sight and sound and would like to participate, please notify me as soon as possible. We would like to close out this final year with as much quality data collection as we can. On top of that, you'll enjoy the experience!

The following is a brief summary of results from the past five years.

Results

Total number of blocks surveyed in 4 years: 421

Total number of species observed during count time: 142

Mean number of species per block:

1988	32.6	1989	33.9
1990	35.1	1991	34.1
1992	33.8		

Species Appearing in Most Number of Blocks

	#of Blocks	(%)
American Crow	417	99.0
Northern Cardinal	410	97.4
Downy Woodpecker	407	96.7
Tufted Titmouse	404	96.0
Blue Jay	396	94.1
Dark-eyed Junco	389	92.4
Carolina Wren	383	91.0
Red-bellied Woodpecker	380	90.3
Song Sparrow	379	90.0
White-throated Sparrow	378	90.0

Ranking by Average Number of Individuals Per Block

Common Grackle	292
Red-winged Blackbird	186
Canada Goose	155
European Starling	126
Snow Goose	57
American Crow	49
Ring-billed Gull	47
White-throated Sparrow	39
House Sparrow	36
Dark-eyed Junco	32
House Finch	28

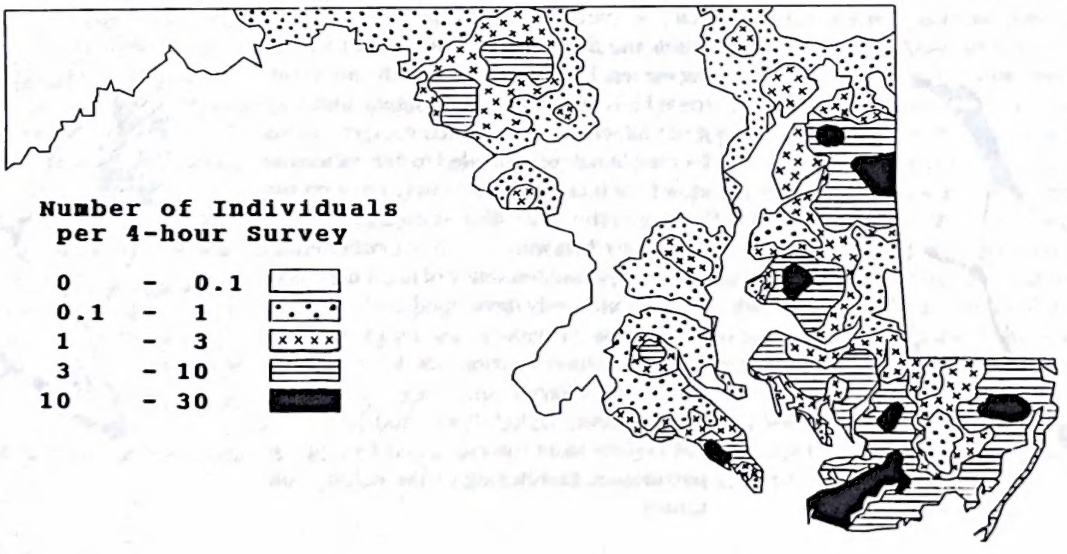
Blocks yielding Most Number of Species

Quadrangle	Quad, Block Numbers	Number of Species
Public Landing	224, 2	64
Ninepin	209, 4	55
Pocomoke City	232, 5	55
Rhodesdale	174, 4	54
Wingate	203, 5	54
Buckeystown	86, 4	52
Girdletree	233, 5	52
Cambridge	172, 5	51
Trappe	160, 2	51
Millington	99, 1	50

Additional Observations: Garrett County provided some notable moments. Rick Farrar was treated to 22 Wild Turkeys and Michael O'Brien spied a Rough-legged Hawk. All the reported 43 Pine Siskins and 13 Evening Grosbeaks came from Garrett, with 41 of the 43 Siskins observed by Danny Systrak near Frostburg. Elsewhere, Erika Wilson found 9 Pied-billed Grebes in an Alexandria block. Fourteen Red-headed Woodpeckers turned up, with 6 near Phoenix and 5 in southwestern Charles County. Twelve Phobes, two more than the record 10 of last year, made appearances across the state. Hermit Thrushes rebounded to 61 individuals after 26 the previous year. Chipping Sparrows were observed near Trappe and St. Michaels. Three Palm Warblers were reported, one each near Cambridge, Federalsburg and Centreville. No Common Yellowthroats were reported

(continued on page 8, column 1)

RELATIVE ABUNDANCE MAP EASTERN MEADOWLARK



Winter Count

continued from page 7, column 3

and Yellow-rumped Warblers numbered only 273, was down from the 2100+ of the previous year. We hope that the 22,000+ Common Grackles seen by Paul Bystrak in northeastern Cecil County were not flying directly overhead! Only 6 Purple Finches turned up and Brown-headed Nuthatch was missed for the first time.

The following contour map depicts the relative abundance in winter of Eastern Meadowlark based on the first four years of data. Detectable populations are found in the Ridge and Valley sections of Allegany, Washington and Frederick Counties, the southeastern portion of the western shore, Harford County and most of the Eastern Coastal Plain, where the concentrations are greatest. Quantitatively, the map supports current knowledge of the range and relative abundance of this species. The range probably has not changed much over the past 25 years, but the density of the population is likely lower overall.

I thank the following observers in 1992: Polly Batchelder, Chris Beaton, Larry Bonham, Bob Boxwell, Jim Boxwell, Danny Bystrak, Paul Bystrak, Patty Craig, Jean Crump, Deanna Dawson, Bob Dixon, Sam Droege, Les Eastman, Gerald Elgert, Fred Fallon, Rick Farrar, Leslie Gerstenfeld, Carol Ghebelian, Jeff Hatfield, Al Haury, David Holmes, William Howe, Paul Jung, Hank Kaestner, Bryan Knedler, Lee and Carol McCollough, Joan McKearnan, Stauffer Miller, Dave Mozurkewich, Harvey and Marion Mudd, Michael O'Brien, Paul O'Brien, Jan Reese, Sue Ricciardi, Brian Rollfinke, Connie Skipper, David Smith, Bill Thompson, Kermit Updegrove, David Wallace, Peter Webb, Steve Westre, George Wilmont, and Erika Wilson.

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Research on Maryland Birds

Two recent articles report on research projects conducted in Maryland. This note provides a brief summary of those articles. Readers interested in a more complete analysis should obtain copies of the original papers.

During the Breeding Bird Atlas project a colony of Black-crowned Night Herons *Nycticorax nycticorax* was discovered at the east end of the Francis Scott Key Bridge near the mouth of the Patapsco River in Baltimore City. The colony, which numbers over 300 pairs of birds, has been written about in several nontechnical magazines, and there has been annual monitoring by state and federal colonial waterbird biologists.

In the November 1991 (Vol. 9, #s 1 & 2: pages 94-102) issue of *Bird Behavior* R. Michael Erwin, Jeff S. Hatfield, and William A. Link, of the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, describe "Social Foraging and Feeding Environment of the Black-crowned Night Heron in an Industrialized Estuary". The authors examined the rate at which herons left the colony and the direction the birds took. When they subjected the observations to statistical tests they discovered that the herons "appear to be quite social" when foraging and seem to "concentrate their feeding in some of the most industrialized" parts of Baltimore Harbor.

Birdwatchers have long known that Black-crowns are fairly common year-round in the harbor area, and good counts have been a regular feature of the Baltimore Christmas Bird Count and the Baltimore Winter Count. Particularly interesting in this research was the discovery that the herons seem to prefer the industrialized harbor area, and were found there much more frequently than in the more natural habitats found not far from the colony. The authors speculated that the herons may be drawn to the industrialized area because it is extensively lighted at night, and that the lights may attract small crabs and fish to the surface, making feeding easier. They point out that the area contains high levels of contaminants, and suggest that more research on the affects of this feeding behavior is needed to determine the affect such contaminants may have on the birds and their breeding success.

Many birdwatchers have commented on the apparent tendency of night herons to settle in intensely developed areas and this report may provide a clue as to why this happens. Other herons are less likely to share this behavior, since most of their foraging is during daylight hours, and they would not benefit from the enhanced feeding opportunities. Monitoring of the colony continues.

In recent years, between 120,000 and 140,000 game-farm raised Mallards have been released annually along the east shore of the Chesapeake Bay. Approximately 100,000 of these have been released by private land owners, and the rest by the Maryland DNR. Among the issues raised by the releases are the impact of the releases on wild populations of mallards, the affect on other nesting waterfowl, and the survival rate of released birds.

In the *Wildlife Society Bulletin* (Vol. 20, No. 2, 1992: pages 1982-188) John D. Stanton 3rd, Edward C. Soutiere, and Richard A. Lancia report on "Survival and Reproduction of Game-Farm Female Mallards at Remington Farms, Maryland". The authors radio-tagged and monitored approximately 117 female Mallards during the spring and summer of 1989 and 1990, examining their survival and reproduction. Their conclusions was that annual survival was much lower for game-farm raised birds than for wild Mallards, and that reproduction was nonexistent.

During the 160 day monitoring period (March to August) only about 25% of the game-farm raised birds survived. The principal cause of death (86%) was predation. The other birds died of unknown or other causes. Only 2 of the radio-tagged females attempted to nest, and both attempts were unsuccessful. The authors conclude that the population of game-farm Mallards was not self-sustaining and have little potential for restoring or supplementing wild populations because game-farm birds survive poorly in the wild. They suggest that habitat protection and restoration is far more important than the release of game-farm birds, and that "the only possible justification for releasing birds may be for put-and-take hunting" and that as many released birds as possible should be harvested. They challenged the justification used by many agencies that releasing birds results in recruitment into wild populations.

Eirik A. T. Bloom

MOS Calendar - December 1992/January 1993

Thursday, December 3

MEETING. Frederick. Annual Christmas Dinner. "Bird Migration," by Chan Robbins. 6:00 p.m. at Araby Church, Frederick. For reservations, contact Helen Horrocks, 301-831-6315, or Linda Killer, 301-834-7312.

Friday, December 4

MEETING. Anne Arundel. "Saw-whet Owls," by David Brinker. 8:00 p.m. at Severn River Junior High School.

Saturday, December 5

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Bombay Hook & Little Creek, DE. Thousands of snow geese, other waterfowl, raptors, and land birds. Meet 8:00 a.m. at Hollywood Diner in Dover DE. The leader is Henry Bielstein at 301-292-9592.

Sunday, December 6

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Beverly and Triton Beaches. An easy walk looking for waterfowl. Meet 7:30 a.m. at the Annapolis Mall Park & Ride. The leader is Al Haury, 410-757-3523.

Tuesday, December 8

MEETING. Baltimore. Show-n-Tell Night. 7:30 p.m. at Cylburn Mansion.

Thursday, December 10

MEETING. Howard. "Approaches to Bird Art," by John Taylor. 8:00 p.m. at Longfellow Elementary School, Columbia. For further information, contact Martha Chestem at 410-730-1527.

MEETING. Montgomery. "New Conservation Initiatives in Maryland by The Nature Conservancy," by Wayne Klockner. 8:00 p.m. at the Potomac Presbyterian Church in Potomac.

Saturday, December 12

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Blackwater NWR. Snow geese, ducks, and raptors. Meet 7:30 a.m. at the Annapolis Mall Park & Ride. The leader is Kathie Lambert, 410-867-4056.

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Southern Maryland. All-day trip to Point Lookout and other locations in search of waterfowl. Meet at Nursery Road Park & Ride at 7:30 a.m. The leader is Steve Sandford, 410-922-5103.

RIVER CENSUS. Jug Bay. Join in for this first attempt to survey the birds of the Patuxent River between Rt. 4 and Solomon's Island. For further information or to volunteer, contact the compiler, Chris Swarth, at 301-741-9330.

Sunday, December 13

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Loch Raven Reservoir. For further information contact Pete Webb, 410-486-1217.

Wednesday, December 16

MEETING. Jug Bay. Annual Potluck Dinner and Slide Show. 6:00 p.m. at Patuxent River Park. For further information, contact 301-627-6074. Bring a covered dish and 5 slides to share.

Friday, January 8

MEETING. Anne Arundel. "Gull Identification for the Truly Gullible," by Jim Stasz. 8:00 p.m. at Severn River Junior High School.

Saturday, January 9

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Winter Gull Trip. Destination to be determined by leader, based on weather conditions and recent sightings. Meet 8:00 a.m. at the Annapolis Mall Park & Ride. The leader is Jim Stasz, 301-257-9540.

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Lancaster County, PA. Meet 8:00 a.m. at Timonium Park & Ride. The leader is Steve Sanford, 401-922-5103.

Thursday, January 14

MEETING. Howard. "Backyard Habitats," by Richard Leader & Edith Thompson. 8:00 p.m. at Longfellow Elementary School, Columbia. For further information, contact Martha Chestem at 410-730-1527.

MEETING. Montgomery. "Interspecific Territoriality in Migratory birds in the Tropics," by Russell Greenberg, Director of the Migratory Bird Center, National Zoo. 8:00 p.m. at the Potomac Presbyterian Church in Potomac.

Sunday, January 17

MEETING. Baltimore. Covered Dish Supper. "Maryland Forest," by Dan Boone. For further information contact Pete Webb, 410-486-1217.

Wednesday, January 20

MEETING. Jug Bay. "Quest for Raptors," by Georges & Paula McNeil. 7:00 p.m. at Patuxent River Park. For further information, contact 301-627-6074.

Saturday, January 23

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Conowingo Dam. For further information contact Pete Webb, 410-486-1217.

Sunday, January 24

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Annapolis Neck. Winter birding followed by hot soup at the Ford's. Meet 12 noon at Bay Ridge Shopping Center. The leaders are John & Helen Ford, 410-267-8417.

Monday, January 25

MEETING. Wicomico. "Birds of Florida," by Ellen Lawler. For further information contact Linda Cashman, 410-749-2804.

Saturday, January 30

FIELD TRIP. Wicomico. Cape Henlopen and Ocean City. The leader is Sam Dyke. For further information contact Linda Cashman, 410-749-2804.

Museum Events for MOS Birders

Thursday, April 15, 1993, 10 a.m.-12 a.m. at the John Work Garrett Library, Evergreen House, The Johns Hopkins University, 4545 N. Charles St., Baltimore; 12 noon-3 p.m. at Cylburn, 4915 Greenspring Ave. for lunch and a tour of the bird collection. Bring Your Own Bag Lunch. Dessert and beverage will be provided. For reservations: Joy Wheeler, 410-825-1204, 531 Hampton Lane, Towson, MD 21265 by April 8, 1993.

Baltimore Bird Club extends to the entire MOS a cordial invitation to attend an opening of the rare and old bird books held at the John Work Garrett Library, Evergreen House, The Johns Hopkins University. Dr. David Thorndill will provide the background on the books and authors, Audubon, Catesby, A. Wilson, John Gould, E. Lear to name a few, and the periods of history in which the books were produced. Those attending will be divided into 2 groups with one group viewing the books being opened and pages being turned by volunteers and staff members of the library. The second group will have a tour of the house and its extensive art collection. At an appointed time the 2 groups will change so that both groups get to see the books as well as the house.

The 1991-92 Baltimore Bird Club program contained this event. It was fully subscribed and well received by everyone. Because we feel that it may interest everyone throughout the MOS we are extending this invitation. To make the day an even more compelling reason to come to Baltimore we have added Cylburn to the itinerary. We will eat lunch there after which we will tour the museum and see our growing collection of books and study skins for close inspection. We invite you to join us for this event. You may find that the sewage treatment plant is not the only place in Baltimore with rare birds.

Joy Wheeler

Mini-Lecture Environmental Education

The environment has received a lot of press lately. We have heard about eco-tourism, environmental exhibits, and the damage that has been done to our environment. We have read about successes. The bald eagle, the peregrine falcon, and our own Chesapeake Bay are some of species and areas that come to mind. Finally, we have received pleas for funds to save rain forests, purchase habitat, and promote environmental causes. This all centers around education; an awareness of our environment.

The Environmental Protection Agency is also looking at environmental education. The EPA has established a new Office of Environmental Education. Its mission is to establish a National Environmental Education and Training Foundation. This foundation would facilitate the cooperation of public and private resources to promote environmental education. In there times of tight resources, how many teachers have an environmental program that needs a little starting capital to get off the ground. How many chapters could use a little money to establish a rotating exhibit. What about tours to wildlife areas for school children.

Bradley F. Smith is the director of this Environmental Education Office. His goal is to bring people together so that programs relating to the environment can reach the people. He is a phone call away at (202) 260-4965. Let's see if he can hook up some of our thoughts, ambitions, and dreams to provide an environmental partnership in Maryland.

Joseph M. Lewandowski

Bird Tours

Longtime M.O.S. member Bill Murphy is offering a 5% discount to M.O.S. members who register for his 1993 birding trips. First will be **Northern Costa Rica**, March 2-13, led by Armas Hill of the Philadelphia Academy of Sciences and Rob Gibbs, an experienced naturalist with Brookside Nature Center. Rob has led several birding tours for the Smithsonian Institution. Next is **Trinidad & Tobago**, March 13-23, led by Bill Murphy, author of *A Birder's Guide to Trinidad & Tobago*, staying at the fabulous Asa Wright Nature Centre. This will be the 24th tour he's led to T & T. Finally, he's put together a very special birding exploration of **Jamaica**, April 2-10, led by Caribbean bird expert James Brooks. You may have seen his articles on birding in Jamaica in *Birding*, *Winging it*, and *Bird Watcher's Digest*.

For detailed information about these trips, please contact Bill at his new address: 101 Rathbone Terrace, Marietta, Ohio 45750; (614) 373-3966.

As the Crow Flies

For more than twelve years my widely-read column about birds, "As the Crow Flies," has appeared every Friday in the Frederick News-Post.

I have now compiled fifty-two of these columns into a 112-page soft-cover book, "As the Crow Flies: Through the Seasons." The selections are informative and entertaining, relaying information about birds and how to see them through a combination of factual and fanciful pieces. Most of the articles relate to birding in Maryland, and each is enhanced with art work by my weekly collaborator, Janet Nave.

The book will be ready for distribution around September 15, well in time for the Christmas season. The cost of each copy is $6.95, plus $.35 Maryland sales tax and $1.50 for shipping (total $8.80). I will make a donation of $.50 per book sold to MOS for its discretionary use.

Elinor Miller
5521 Feagaville Lane
Frederick, MD 21702

The copy deadline for the January/February issue of the *Yellowthroat* is December 15, 1992. Please send chapter activities to:

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1261 Cavendish Dr.
Colesville, MD 20904
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W: 202-272-5248

Please send all other material to the editor:
Mark L. Hoffman
2709 Summerview Way, #102
Annapolis, MD 21401
H: 410-266-7278
W: 410-974-3195

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